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Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 00920 221534Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-08
/108 W
----------117086 222337Z /61
R 221339Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2104
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CURACAO
USMISSION GENEVA
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY

MTN ALSO FOR MISSION

UNIDO ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, NL
SUBJCT: DEVELOPMENT AID: NEW FACES,NEW POLICIES

1. THE CONTRAST BETWEEN THE NEW DUTCH MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT
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COOPERATION, JAN DE KONING, AND HIS PREDECESSOR,JAN PRONK,
IS STRIKING. WHEREAS PRONK WAS A FIERY IDEALIST, DE KONING
RADIATES PATIENCE, REASONABLENESS, AND PRAGMATISM. DE KONING'S
MORE SUBDUED PERSONALITY COMPLIMENTS THE CAUTIOUS NATURE OF
THE NEW GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS MARKEDLY MORE CONSERVATIVE
THE THE SOCIALIST-LED DEN UYL CABINET. ALTHOUGH DE KONING HAS
SAID HE WILL CONTINUE PRONK'S POLICIES, ALL INDICATIONS POINT

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TO A MORE MODERATE APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE.

2. THE GOVERNMENT INSISTS THAT AID SPENDING WILL REMAIN AND ITS CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF 1.5 PERCENT OF NET NATIONAL INCOME. THE TONE AND SUBSTANCE OF AID POLICY, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO BE SHIFTING SLOWLY TOWARD THE POLITICAL CENTER, AS INDICATED BY STATEMENTS OF DE KONING AND PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT. BOTH HAVE CALLED FOR CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE EEC ON AID POLICY, SOMETHING WHICH PRONK FEARED AS A RESTRICTION ON HIS AMBITIOUS, SOMETIMES RADICAL POLICIES. THE BUSINESS ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT, WHICH PRONK PLAYED DOWN, HAS BEEN STRESSED BY HIS SUCCESSORS. THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS SUGGESTED THAT HIGH PRIORITY WILL CONTINUE TO GO TO THE FORMER DUTCH COLONIES OF INDONESIA AND SURINAM, A MOVE WHICH WITH REGARD TO INDONESIA AT LEAST WILL DISTURB THE LEFT BUT PLEASE THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

3. SOME OF PRONK'S MORE CONTROVERSIAL POLICIES WILL NOW COME UNDER SEVERE ATTACK BY A GOVERNMENT COALITION WHICH INCLUDES THE RIGHTIST LIBERAL (VVD) PARTY INSTEAD OF THE SOCIALISTS. ALTHOUGH ALL OF THE15 MILLION GUILDERS (ABOUT $6.75 MILLION) EARMARKED FOR 1978 IS EXPECTED TO BE PROVIDED TO CUBA, MANY FEEL THAT AID TO CUBA WILL BE TERMINATED NEXT YEAR. AID TO "LIBERATION FRONTS" WILL ALSO BE PLAYED DOWN WITH ITS STAN-UCHEST DEFENDER OUT OF POWER (THOUGH PRONK IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE SECOND CHAMBER AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND HIS POLICIES IN THE FORUM). NEVERTHELESS, SWAPO WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
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AID (THE HAGUE 897). RADICAL PLANS TO RESTRUCTURE THE DUTCH ECONOMY TO IMPROVE THE TRADE POSITIONS OF THE LDC'S WILL PROBABLY BE GIVEN A LOW PRIORITY DUE TO A SLUGGISH DOMESTIC ECONOMY AND THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO DISTURB ECO-NOMIC RELATIONS WITH ITS EC PARTNERS.

4. POST HAS PREPARED COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON NEW DIRECTIONS IN DUTCH DEVELOPMENT AID POLICY, THE HAGUE A-18 WHICH WILL BE POUCHED TO ADDRESSEES ON FEBRUARY 24.
BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA00920
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780082-1143
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE EEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780225/aaaaavhe.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 86799ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3514114
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CT: DEVELOPMENT AID: NEW FACES,NEW POLICIES
TAGS: EAID, PGOV, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/86799ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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